

02-277

The Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman; ✓

Eric G. Westerberg
5 Grace Rd.
Wilmot, NH 03287

The Honorable Kevin Martin, Commissioner;

04 May 03

The Honorable Jonathan Adelstein, Commissioner;

The Honorable Kathleen Abernathy, Commissioner;

The Honorable Michael Copps, Commissioner;

Federal Communications Commission
435 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

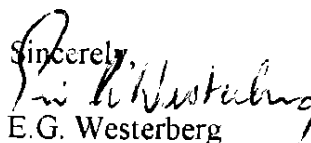
Dear Sirs/ Ma'am:

I am writing to provide comment w/regard to proposed changes to the Broadcast Ownership Rules, which I am told are currently under consideration by your agency.

I am persuaded it is essential to the long term well being of our country that a regulation which could facilitate a monopoly on the dissemination of news programming not be allowed to take place.

Just as big business tends to aspire to monopoly by its competitive nature, so does control of the media/entertainment industries. The danger of monopoly in this case isn't simply a matter of less selection at higher price for a given commodity. The prize is nothing less than an unfettered ability by a handful of basically like-minded individuals to determine an editorial diet for the entire population of the most powerful nation on earth. Censorship by omission, in other words. An undue advantage in shaping the hearts and minds of our countrymen by selectively excluding voices of differing opinion. It already happens to some degree. I don't recall ever seeing impartial coverage of the pro-life movement, or the positive merits of private firearms ownership, for instance, in the mainstream media. An increased tendency toward monopoly in the media/entertainment industry would tend to amplify this exclusion of issues deemed by a select few to be unfashionable, politically incorrect, or otherwise repugnant. For that reason, monopoly ownership of the means of mass communication is an unsound prospect, and I appeal to you as servants of our people not to let it come to pass.

The same freedom of speech the media collectively wraps itself in is at the very heart of the liberties we take for granted in this country. The worth of the sacrifice of millions who suffered to uphold such rights, and the well being of those to come after our time must to some degree be determined by the choices you make in this matter. Before God and man, I pray you do wisely.

Sincerely,

E.G. Westerberg

Continued

04/14/03

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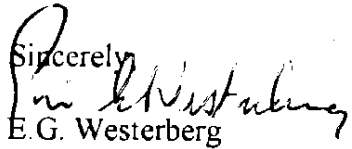
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100-100000

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Distribution: 5/1

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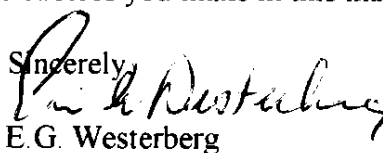
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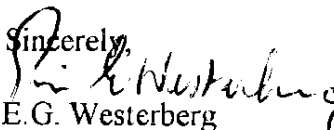
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